

In the Claims

1 1. (currently amended) A method of updating computer software on a
2 computer comprising:
3 downloading software update information through a network to the computer;
4 determining if a software update is available from the software update
5 information;
6 downloading a criticality check program through the network to the computer;
7 executing the criticality check program on the computer;
8 evaluating the criticality of the software update from an output of the criticality
9 check program and the software update information;
10 accessing stored user preference information that includes a user criticality
11 threshold; and
12 determining if the software update should be automatically downloaded and
13 installed by comparing the user criticality threshold of ~~from~~ the user
14 preference information and the evaluated criticality of the software update.

1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the software update information
2 includes a criticality rating.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of executing the criticality
2 check program on the computer includes determining the configuration of the
3 computer and the step of evaluating the criticality of the software update includes
4 adjusting the criticality rating from the software update information dependent
5 upon the configuration of the computer to produce the evaluated criticality of the
6 software update.

1 4. (canceled)

1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the software update information
2 includes a location for downloading the criticality check program.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of downloading the
2 criticality check program includes downloading the criticality check program from
3 the criticality check program location.

1 7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the software update information
2 includes a location for downloading the software update.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 7 further including the steps of:
2 downloading the software update from the software update location; and
3 automatically installing the software update.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 8 further including the step of producing a
2 notification that the software update has been installed.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 9 further including the steps of determining if a
2 computer reboot is necessary and including a request in the notification that the
3 computer be rebooted if a computer reboot is necessary.

1 11. (original) The method of claim 9 further including the step of notifying the
2 user of the availability of additional software updates.

1 12. (original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of producing a
2 notification if it is determined from the user preference information and the
3 evaluated criticality of the software update that the software update should not be
4 automatically downloaded and installed.

1 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of
2 determining from the software update information whether to skip the steps of
3 downloading and executing the criticality check program and evaluating the
4 criticality of the software update, and wherein the step of determining if the
5 software update should be automatically downloaded and installed comprises

6 comparing thea user criticality threshold included in the user preference
7 information with a criticality rating included in the software update information.

1 14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of downloading software
2 update information comprises periodically automatically downloading software
3 update information through the network to the computer.

1 15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of downloading software
2 update information includes sending a software update query through the network
3 requesting the software update information.

1 16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the software update query includes
2 software identification information identifying software to be updated and the
3 software update information relates to the software to be updated identified in the
4 software identification information.

1 17. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the software update query includes
2 software publisher information identifying a publisher of software to be updated
3 and the software update information includes a list of software updates available
4 for software published by the publisher identified in the software identification
5 information.

1 18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of determining if a
2 software update is available from the software update information comprises
3 determining from the list of software updates if a software update is available for
4 software on the computer.

1 19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the software update
2 query includes software publisher information identifying at least one additional
3 publisher of software to be updated and the software update information includes
4 a list of software updates available for software published by each publisher
5 identified in the software identification information.

1 20. (original) A method of updating computer software on a computer comprising:
2 downloading software update information through a network to the computer,
3 the software update information including a criticality rating for a software
4 update identified in the software update information;
5 accessing stored user preference information, the user preference information
6 including a criticality threshold set by a user of the computer;
7 determining if the software update is a critical software update by comparing
8 the criticality rating to the criticality threshold;
9 automatically downloading the software update if the software update is a
10 critical software update; and

11 automatically installing the software update if the software update is a critical
12 software update.

1 21. (original) A method of updating computer software on a computer comprising:
2 periodically automatically downloading software update information through a
3 network to the computer, the software update information including:
4 a location for downloading a software update,
5 a criticality rating for the software update, and
6 a location for downloading a criticality check program;
7 automatically downloading the criticality check program through the network
8 to the computer;
9 executing the criticality check program on the computer;
10 evaluating the criticality of the software update from an output of the criticality
11 check program and the criticality rating;
12 accessing stored user preference information containing a user criticality
13 threshold; and
14 determining if the software update should be automatically downloaded and
15 installed by comparing the user criticality threshold and the evaluated
16 criticality of the software update.

1 22. (canceled)

1 23. (currently amended) A computer program product for updating computer
2 software on a computer, said computer program product having:

3 computer readable program code means for downloading software update
4 information through a network to the computer;

5 computer readable program code means for determining if a software update is
6 available from the software update information;

7 computer readable program code means for downloading a criticality check
8 program through the network to the computer;

9 computer readable program code means for executing the criticality check
10 program on the computer;

11 computer readable program code means for evaluating the criticality of the
12 software update from an output of the criticality check program and the
13 software update information;

14 computer readable program code means for accessing stored user preference
15 information that includes a user criticality threshold; and

16 computer readable program code means for determining if the software update
17 should be automatically downloaded and installed by comparing the user
18 criticality threshold of ~~from~~ the user preference information and the
19 evaluated criticality of the software update.

1 24. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to

3 perform method steps for updating computer software on a computer, said method
4 steps comprising:

5 downloading software update information through a network to the computer;
6 determining if a software update is available from the software update
7 information;

8 downloading a criticality check program through the network to the computer;
9 executing the criticality check program on the computer;

10 evaluating the criticality of the software update from an output of the criticality
11 check program and the software update information;

12 accessing stored user preference information that includes a user criticality
13 threshold; and

14 determining if the software update should be automatically downloaded and
15 installed by comparing the user criticality threshold of ~~from~~ the user
16 preference information and the evaluated criticality of the software update.

1 25. (original) A computer program product for updating computer software on a
2 computer, said computer program product having:

3 computer readable program code means for downloading software update
4 information through a network to the computer, the software update
5 information including a criticality rating for a software update identified in
6 the software update information;

7 computer readable program code means for accessing stored user preference
8 information, the user preference information including a criticality threshold
9 set by a user of the computer;

10 computer readable program code means for determining if the software update
11 is a critical software update by comparing the criticality rating to the
12 criticality threshold;

13 computer readable program code means for automatically downloading the
14 software update if the software update is a critical software update; and

15 computer readable program code means for automatically installing the
16 software update if the software update is a critical software update.

1 26. (original) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly
2 embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform
3 method steps for updating computer software on a computer, said method steps
4 comprising:

5 downloading software update information through a network to the computer,
6 the software update information including a criticality rating for a software
7 update identified in the software update information;

8 accessing stored user preference information, the user preference information
9 including a criticality threshold set by a user of the computer;

10 determining if the software update is a critical software update by comparing
11 the criticality rating to the criticality threshold;

11

- 12 automatically downloading the software update if the software update is a
- 13 critical software update; and
- 14 automatically installing the software update if the software update is a critical
- 15 software update.